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Issued LIVESTOCK DIVISION Weekly

MARKET REVIEWS AND STATISTICS

Vol. 24, No. 21 May 22, 1956

Week ended May 19

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
LIVESTOCK DIVISION
Washington 25, D. C.

AMS1-WASH

MIDWEST LIVESTOCK MARKET REVIEW

Upturns of $1.00-1.50 on butcher hogs featured the week's livestock trade. The sharp advance placed prices on highest levels since last July. Aggressive competition for the substantially reduced supply and further upturns in wholesale fresh pork prices were the principal factors in the week's advance in hog prices. Cattle receipts were smallest since the last week of March but the price trend on fed steers and heifers was unevenly 50¢ higher to 50¢ or more lower. The influence of smaller receipts was in most instances offset by dullness and weak to lower prices in the wholesale beef trade and by two non-slaughtering kosher holidays which curtailed outlet for fed steers. Cows were in good demand at steady to 50¢ higher prices. Slaughter lambs closed 50¢ higher at a few points but $1.00-2.00 lower at most markets.

SLAUGHTER CATTLE AND CALVES

Prices of fed cattle again charted an uneven course. At Chicago high-Choice and Prime steers closed weak to 50¢ lower with others steady to 50¢ higher. At South St. Paul and St. Louis National Stock Yards steers sold strong to 50¢ higher than a week earlier. Price trend at most other midwest terminals was steady to 50¢ lower with severest declines on weights around 1150# up, instances on these as much as 75¢ off. Heifers declined at Omaha, St. Joseph and Sioux City but were steady to 50¢ higher at other points. Late prices on cows were steady to 50¢ higher than a week earlier. The week's receipts of salable cattle at 12 markets were smallest since the last week of March and were considerably below marketings of a year ago. The influence of reduced receipts was in most instances more than offset by weakness in wholesale beef prices and dullness in the dressed trade. A further bearish factor was two non-slaughtering Jewish holidays which curtailed the outlet for upper grades of beef steers. The week's trade in fed cattle was rather slow with buyers at most points continuing "weight conscious," and usually exerting pressure on steers above 1150#. The average weight of beef steers at Chicago was 1125# or 3# above the previous week while at Omaha the week's average of 1096# was 12# under a week ago. Only slightly more than 3 percent of the steers at Chicago graded Prime with steers of that grade extremely scarce at other markets. Good and Choice offerings made up from 91 to 95 percent of the beef steers at the four markets - Chicago, Omaha, Sioux City and Kansas City. Price differentials between steers and heifers have gradually narrowed in recent weeks. In fact, at Chicago heifers grading Choice and below frequently sold as high and in instances higher than steers of comparable grade and weight. Bulls were largely steady, occasional sales 50¢ higher and 50¢ lower.

A few loads of Prime 1070-1350# steers brought $22.75-24.50 at Chicago; numerous loads high-Choice and mixed Choice and Prime steers $21.25-22.50; bulk Good and Choice $17.00-21.00. Good and Choice fed steers and heifers bulked at other midwest terminals from $17.00-20.50, with a scattering of sales of high-Choice and Prime steers from $21.00-22.50.

Slaughter calves closed mostly steady and vealers steady to $1.00 higher. Good and Choice vealers cashed at South St. Paul from $20.00-25.00; same grades at St. Louis National Stock Yards $21.00-24.00, with Prime offerings up to $26.00 at both markets.

STOCKER AND FEEDER CATTLE AND CALVES

Receipts of stocker and feeder cattle decreased moderately compared with the previous week but marketings of calves increased. The current week's volume showed little change from that of a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder

steers to the country from the 10 markets totaled 13,297 head, compared with 15,681 the previous week and 13,947 a year ago. Outgo of calves was 6,936, a week ago 4,197, a year ago 6,037. A fairly large percent of the supplies consisted of Good to Choice offerings but relatively few of any class or weight were better than average-Choice. Yearling and two-year-old steers scaling from 550-900# predominated. Only a very moderate number of yearling heifers was marketed while high-Good and Choice calves as well as Good young stock cows were in very small supply. There was considerable variance in trade activity at the different markets. At a majority of the terminals, prices varied but little from a steady basis and in a few instances limited numbers influenced a mildly stronger trend. However, at Kansas City, where supplies were considerably larger than at most other centers, buyers showed a decided inclination to back away from the price levels reached after the advance of the two previous weeks. At that market prices were unevenly weak to $1.00 lower, and with trading very slow throughout, dealers there went into the weekend with a sizable number still on hand. Although moisture conditions are considerably improved over a few weeks ago, pasture conditions in many instances still are not overly favorable and this was a factor in slowing the demand. An erratic and quite often reduced demand for fat cattle also tended to influence a cautious country buyer attitude. In addition, the press of field work probably kept some potential buyers at home. A few Choice 550-600# stock steers reached $21.00 but majority of the Good and Choice yearlings cashed from $17.00-20.25. Good and Choice feeder steers 800# up sold from $17.00-19.00. Relatively few yearling heifers exceeded $18.00, but one load of Choice 525# stockers reached $19.50, and partly-fattened heifers occasionally sold for further feeding from $18.25-18.50. Good and Choice steer calves ranged from $17.00-22.00.

HOGS

The number of hogs marketed throughout the midwest decreased for the third successive week. The combined 12-market and Interior Iowa-Southern Minnesota area total was the smallest since early last August, and the Interior supply was smallest since last July. Demand in the Interior area was frequently urgent as some packing plants were pressed to maintain minimum hours of slaughtering. Broad outlet for the reduced supplies and improved wholesale fresh pork prices were principal factors in the week's advance, with top prices reaching the highest levels since last July at most markets. Hog prices at Chicago through Friday, May 18, had advanced nine consecutive days, one of the longest sustained advances of record. Compared with the previous Friday, barrows and gilts netted $1.00-1.50 price upturns, instances up more. Sows were 50¢-$1.75 higher. Both shippers and packers competed aggressively for the limited volume of U. S. No. 1 and 2 butchers, and these sold 25-50¢, instances 75¢ above prices paid for mixed lots of mostly No. 2 and 3 grade offerings of comparable weights. There was virtually as much price variation for grade as for weight with butchers from 190-300# often selling within a $1.00 price range. There was some sorting for weight and grade but bulk sold with little or no sorting. Sows made up from 7 to 22 percent of receipts.

Average cut-out value advantage of U. S. No. 1 over No. 3 live basis, for 200-220# barrows and gilts was 93¢ per cwt. based on provision prices at Chicago May 11 to May 17, inclusive.

Stocker and feeder pigs were $1.00 higher at Sioux City, Good and Choice 120-160# selling at $14.50-15.50, mostly $15.00 up. Prices at S. St. Paul were 50¢-$1.00 higher, bulk Good and Choice there $15.00-15.50. Prices for the small supply at Memphis showed a similar advance. Medium and Good 70-140# feeders sold there from $10.00-12.50, a few 80-100# to $13.00.

Continued on page 427.

Market	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep	
	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955
Chicago	35,508	43,689	1,277	1,607	36,068	45,089	4,157	9,819
Cincinnati	4,054	4,408	1,405	1,382	12,440	11,155	674	565
Denver	13,883	15,908	837	594	2,922	2,682	3,656	6,895
Fort Worth	9,921	16,849	1,679	3,857	4,289	2,516	32,728	40,302
Indianapolis	9,067	8,601	1,256	1,279	40,022	36,879	1,088	446
Kansas City	19,397	16,515	1,075	1,588	11,404	7,407	11,145	12,982
Oklahoma City	12,509	10,833	1,115	1,150	6,347	3,371	4,858	4,805
Omaha	34,780	43,881	664	1,211	27,060	30,829	5,883	11,273
St. Joseph	13,711	13,979	864	989	22,981	20,343	4,294	6,044
St. Louis NSY	17,086	16,525	4,061	4,394	62,453	40,229	4,404	2,842
Sioux City	18,384	26,293	148	757	19,370	26,604	3,839	3,690
S. St. Paul	20,941	23,717	7,548	7,940	44,333	41,188	2,531	6,202
Total	209,241	241,198	21,929	26,748	289,689	268,292	79,257	105,865
May 12, 1956	222,116		23,580		322,765		89,455	

INTERIOR IOWA AND SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Week ended:	Hogs	Sheep
May 19, 1956	207,100	18,400
May 12, 1956	280,500	18,400
May 21, 1955	269,000	27,600

FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER

	Week ended			Month		Four months	
	May 17 1956	May 10 1956	May 19 1955	Apr. 1956	Apr. 1955	Jan. - Apr. 1956	Jan. - Apr. 1955
Steers – 1001# up	240	527	496	2,058	3,670	6,935	10,955
901-1000	634	996	709	5,131	8,283	23,042	34,570
801-900	1,500	2,355	1,261	8,812	11,346	46,133	51,987
701-800	2,744	3,484	3,096	13,629	13,611	55,399	55,890
501-700	8,179	8,319	8,385	39,430	42,816	146,017	159,351
Total steers 10 mkts.	13,297	15,681	13,947	69,060	79,726	277,526	312,753
Av. wts. " " "	682#	710#	693#	697#	716#	708#	718#
Av.cost* " " "	$17.40	$17.22	$18.60	$17.32	$20.52	$16.83	$20.13
" " " Chicago	17.85	17.77	19.75	18.41	20.96	17.34	20.30
" " " Ks. City	17.82	18.03	19.66	17.81	21.25	17.36	20.90
" " " Omaha	17.53	16.96	17.76	17.13	20.67	16.65	20.17
" " " S. St. Paul	16.11	15.86	17.06	16.36	19.04	15.46	18.24
" " " Sioux City	18.29	17.72	19.15	17.67	20.77	17.09	20.48
" " " Denver	17.37	18.18	19.65	17.49	20.96	17.34	21.78
" " " Ft. Worth	16.62	16.13	17.35	16.87	19.23	16.46	19.11
" " " Okla. City	16.65	16.10	17.28	16.30	19.36	16.27	19.21
" " " S. St. Joseph	16.52	17.19	18.60	16.77	20.03	16.54	19.84
" " " Natl. Stk. Yds.	17.31	16.84	18.08	16.92	19.69	16.35	18.99
Total calves–10 mkts.	6,936	4,197	6,037	19,195	29,732	91,570	125,293
" cows.							
heifers, bulls– " "	4,406	4,528	5,590	14,560	17,326	49,528	63,793

* Not adjusted for differences in grade of cattle sold at each market.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955
CHICAGO												
Prime	793	1237	1017	3.4	4.6	3.3	1295	1291	1249	22.58	22.98	25.91
Choice	14971	15831	19746	64.5	59.0	65.2	1170	1174	1144	20.52	20.59	23.34
Good	6659	8626	7432	28.7	32.0	24.5	1026	1026	1013	18.65	18.52	20.92
Com'l.	656	1101	1994	2.8	4.1	6.6	929	936	965	15.77	15.73	17.78
Utility	126	91	119	.6	.3	.4	902	1036	899	13.81	14.34	15.12
All grades	23205	26886	30308				1125	1122	1103	19.97	19.92	22.54
OMAHA 1/												
Prime	95	188	216	.5	1.0	1.0	1297	1309	1301	21.39	21.72	24.94
Choice	10964	11444	13250	65.3	63.2	67.4	1142	1155	1110	19.53	19.78	21.97
Good	4966	5526	4872	29.6	30.5	24.8	1018	1029	993	17.87	17.89	19.47
Com'l.	637	775	1162	3.8	4.3	5.9	943	964	963	15.26	15.26	16.73
Utility	129	186	179	.8	1.0	.9	857	890	886	13.61	13.52	14.55
All grades	16791	18119	19679				1096	1108	1073	18.91	19.05	21.10
SIOUX CITY 1/												
Prime	--	271	183	--	2.8	1.5	--	1340	1266	--	22.02	24.74
Choice	6462	6327	7540	75.6	65.8	61.3	1136	1132	1123	19.53	19.71	22.13
Good	1635	2481	3423	19.1	25.8	27.8	1026	1054	1061	17.81	18.14	19.86
Com'l.	341	522	959	4.0	5.4	7.8	1007	982	979	15.87	16.06	17.54
Utility	108	15	191	1.3	.2	1.6	1075	1013	1057	14.22	13.98	14.96
All grades	8546	9616	12296				1109	1109	1096	19.02	19.22	21.14
KANSAS CITY 1/												
Prime	56	20	23	.9	.4	.5	1041	1102	1239	22.04	21.72	24.75
Choice	2883	2690	1943	49.8	56.7	39.0	1083	1129	1085	19.88	19.77	22.84
Good	2373	1848	2277	41.0	38.9	45.6	1084	1039	1012	18.33	18.33	20.35
Com'l.	428	182	660	7.4	3.8	13.2	1005	1012	989	15.80	16.09	16.96
Utility	53	8	86	.9	.2	1.7	937	991	949	13.93	13.93	14.87
All grades	5793	4748	4989				1076	1089	1037	18.93	19.10	20.88
ST. LOUIS NSY 1/												
Prime	--	8	4	--	--	.1	--	1171	1276	--	22.50	25.00
Choice	1967	2516	1617	31.2	36.0	27.4	1084	1092	1046	19.86	19.28	22.63
Good	2905	2678	2894	46.0	38.4	49.1	962	977	965	18.59	18.13	20.67
Com'l.	1202	1294	944	19.0	18.5	16.0	888	875	862	17.13	16.85	18.50
Utility	239	501	439	3.8	7.1	7.4	797	855	789	14.93	14.83	15.85
All grades	6313	6997	5898				980	991	958	18.66	18.18	20.65
S. ST. JOSEPH 1/												
Prime	2	95	9	--	1.6	.1	1102	1216	1025	22.00	21.37	23.25
Choice	3313	3564	3140	51.3	59.9	47.1	1120	1117	1121	19.75	19.68	22.52
Good	2505	1880	2589	38.8	31.6	38.8	1048	1030	1032	17.96	18.09	20.22
Com'l.	520	319	762	8.0	5.4	11.4	958	922	1030	15.55	15.62	17.30
Utility	122	89	173	1.9	1.5	2.6	892	966	906	13.92	13.83	14.83
All grades	6462	5947	6673				1074	1079	1071	18.68	18.97	20.92

Continued.

BEEF STEERS SOLD OUT OF FIRST HANDS FOR SLAUGHTER

Grade	Number of head			Percent of total by grades			Average weight (pounds)			Average price in dollars per 100 lb.		
	Week ended											
	May 17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	May 17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	May 17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955	May 17 1956	May 10 1956	19 1955
					DENVER 1/							
Prime	168	239	--	2.8	3.2	--	1296	1319	--	22.00	21.58	--
Choice	4652	5721	4729	78.5	75.6	77.0	1126	1117	1113	19.53	19.63	23.08
Good	936	1517	1315	15.8	20.0	21.5	1051	1022	1050	18.07	18.21	21.10
Com'l.	59	73	82	1.0	1.0	1.3	1054	1000	986	14.99	15.74	16.22
Utility	111	16	15	1.9	.2	.2	911	854	885	14.18	13.74	13.48
All grades	5926	7566	6141				1114	1102	1098	19.27	19.40	22.57

1/ These summaries developed from data collected on marketings of fed cattle by the Agricultural Estimates Division.

ESTIMATED FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER AND MEAT PRODUCTION

Week ended	Beef		Veal		Pork (excl. lard)		Lamb and mutton		Total meat prod.	Total lard prod.
	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.	Number	Prod.		
	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	1,000	mil. lb.	mil. lb.	mil. lb.
May 19, 1956	349	190.6	129	16.0	1,021	139.8	230	10.8	357.2	--
May 12, 1956	372	203.9	136	16.5	1,157	155.5	244	11.5	387.4	--
May 5, 1956 1/	402	--	142	--	1,282	--	255	--	--	45.0
May 21, 1955	367	194.5	134	16.4	973	139.4	294	13.9	364.2	36.5
Percentage change from:										
May 12, 1956	-6	-7	-5	-3	-12	-10	-6	-6	-8	--
May 21, 1955	-5	-2	-4	-2	+5	0	-22	-22	-2	--

Week ended	Average weights (lb.)								Lard yield per 100 lb.
	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs		
	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed	Live	Dressed 2/	Live	Dressed	
May 19, 1956	985	546	225	124	244	137	96	47	--
May 12, 1956	990	548	220	121	240	134	96	47	--
May 5, 1956	990	548	215	120	240	134	97	47	--
May 21, 1955	960	530	222	122	254	143	97	47	14.8

1/ Actual slaughter.
2/ Excludes lard.

WEEKLY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION AT MAJOR CENTERS

City or Area	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep and lambs	
	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955	May 19 1956	May 21 1955
Boston, New York City Area	9,989	11,739	10,209	12,807	52,039	47,956	35,237	47,081
Baltimore, Philadelphia	7,382	7,846	1,417	1,582	26,386	22,450	2,907	2,000
Cin., Cleve., Detroit, Indpls.	17,335	16,767	8,238	6,842	87,430	73,253	15,840	11,759
Chicago Area	22,366	26,414	6,457	6,917	49,307	49,845	4,063	7,782
St. Paul-Wis Areas	31,651	29,895	22,488	23,047	82,600	74,705	7,666	10,013
St. Louis Area	14,148	15,914	5,192	6,645	78,143	58,340	6,810	11,474
Sioux City	10,476	8,580	43	8	14,987	9,774	1/	3,223
Omaha Area	27,926	34,968	704	760	55,277	56,712	10,155	16,756
Kansas City	13,530	13,636	3,135	3,170	26,772	22,828	8,535	15,249
Iowa-So. Minnesota	26,644	28,022	11,564	12,432	181,438	236,860	21,080	27,344
Lou'l. Evan'l. Nash'l. Mph's.	9,247	10,658	8,131	9,427	52,043	42,767	1/	1/
Georgia-Alabama Area	6,138	9,285	2,597	4,312	26,244	17,936	1/	1/
St. Jo'ph. Wichita, Okla. City	18,686	17,942	3,857	3,986	44,860	38,031	14,172	21,547
Ft. Worth, Dallas, San Antonio	16,365	20,996	6,671	8,441	18,445	15,874	27,805	30,555
Denver, Ogden, Salt Lake City	17,449	16,459	947	824	16,551	13,722	13,362	12,567
Los Angeles, San Fran. Areas	26,162	25,552	3,683	4,036	33,875	29,281	28,464	35,522
Portland, Seattle, Spokane	7,511	7,091	652	537	15,024	12,685	5,759	4,611
Total	283,005	301,764	95,985	105,773	861,421	823,019	201,855	257,483
Accumulation to date	5,967,750	5,708,642	2,078,519	2,108,372	23,216,007	19,545,051	4,822,583	4,938,456

1/ Not available.

ESTIMATED PERCENT FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE AND SLAUGHTER COWS IN SALABLE RECEIPTS

Week ended	Chicago	Kansas City	Omaha	S. St. Joseph	St. Louis NSY	Sioux City	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	Denver	Fort Worth	Okla. City	Wichita	San Antonio
Feeders and stockers													
May 18, 1956	4	32	12	7	4	13	5	9	10	20	30	34	35
May 11, 1956	3	35	12	12	4	18	5	7	5	25	35	32	50
May 20, 1955	3	30	11	7	8	16	5	8	12	40	50	35	35
Slaughter cows													
May 18, 1956	7	11	11	11	16	9	28	7	8	18	18	18	35
May 11, 1956	6	12	12	12	16	7	27	9	6	12	17	19	25
May 20, 1955	7	13	9	15	18	8	30	17	10	33	20	20	27

CATTLE: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	Chicago			Kansas City			Omaha		
	19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955
Slaughter cattle, calves and vealers									
Steers -									
Prime 900-1100#	23.25	23.58	26.02	22.32	23.00	25.12	22.75	23.25	25.28
1100-1300	23.58	24.00	26.55	21.82	22.45	25.30	22.62	22.98	25.52
Choice 900-1100	20.98	21.08	23.78	20.30	20.62	22.82	20.08	20.35	22.22
1100-1300	20.90	21.08	23.72	19.90	20.25	22.82	20.05	20.32	22.28
Good 900-1100	18.48	18.28	20.62	17.78	17.95	19.90	17.32	17.38	19.20
Com'l. All wts.	15.90	15.75	17.30	15.75	15.70	17.02	15.00	15.00	16.75
Heifers -									
Prime 600-800#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Choice " "	19.98	19.82	22.12	20.00	19.98	21.75	19.70	20.10	21.75
Good 500-900	17.98	17.84	19.96	17.68	17.65	18.78	17.28	17.50	19.18
Com'l. All wts.	15.68	15.35	16.92	15.25	15.25	16.30	15.00	15.00	16.25
Cows - All weights									
Commercial	13.78	13.50	13.88	13.38	13.20	12.95	12.88	12.75	13.00
Utility	12.45	12.15	12.30	12.12	11.90	11.52	11.88	11.68	11.28
Canner & Cutter	11.28	10.75	10.60	10.70	10.48	9.75	10.52	10.30	9.42
Bulls - All weights -									
Good	13.00	13.00	13.25	--	--	--	12.75	12.98	13.00
Utility & Commercial	14.88	15.10	15.65	13.88	13.88	13.62	13.50	13.65	13.75
Vealers - All weights -									
Choice & Prime	25.10	24.80	24.20	21.00	21.00	21.50	21.30	21.00	20.00
Com'l. & Good	20.00	19.80	19.00	18.00	18.00	17.00	16.50	16.50	16.00
Calves - 500# down									
Choice & Prime	21.00	20.80	20.50	18.75	18.75	19.00	18.50	18.50	18.50
Com'l. & Good	16.50	16.30	16.50	16.25	16.15	16.00	15.00	15.00	14.50
Feeder and stocker cattle and calves									
Steers -									
Choice 500-800#	19.98	19.88	22.50	19.95	20.38	23.00	19.75	19.75	21.80
Good " "	17.48	17.38	20.50	18.05	18.25	20.00	17.50	17.25	19.30
Medium 500-1000	15.50	15.50	17.25	15.55	16.00	17.25	14.75	14.75	16.50
Heifers -									
Choice 500-750	17.45	17.25	19.50	18.50	18.00	19.00	17.75	17.38	18.50
Med. & Gd. " "	14.70	14.50	16.25	15.25	15.50	16.00	15.00	14.88	14.75
Cows - All weights -									
Medium & Good	--	--	--	11.25	11.50	11.50	11.38	11.50	10.25
Calves -300-500# -									
Steers -									
Good & Choice	20.80	21.00	22.00	20.00	20.00	21.50	19.50	19.50	21.00
Heifers -									
Good & Choice	17.50	17.50	19.00	17.50	17.50	18.50	16.75	16.62	17.50

HOGS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification		Chicago			Interior Iowa and southern Minnesota			Indianapolis		
		19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	15.88	14.45	17.32	14.78	13.42	15.65	15.28	14.42	17.65
2 and 3	180-200	16.90	15.36	18.48	16.27	14.88	16.92	16.95	15.78	18.72
	200-220	17.14	15.74	18.42	16.66	15.31	17.17	16.90	15.88	18.70
	220-240	17.06	15.70	18.08	16.44	15.09	16.90	16.87	15.85	18.55
	240-270	16.71	15.40	17.30	16.00	14.70	16.41	16.50	15.42	17.68
	270-300	16.36	15.05	16.58	15.47	14.13	15.80	15.98	14.92	16.90
Sows –										
	300-330#	15.08	14.18	15.45	15.10	13.83	14.41	13.95	13.45	15.30
	360-400	14.38	13.40	14.50	14.60	13.32	13.51	13.48	12.92	14.32
	450-550	13.30	12.28	13.20	13.48	12.22	12.24	12.75	12.00	13.22
Pigs (stocker and feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		Omaha			St. Louis National Stock Yards			Sioux City		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	--	--	--	16.22	14.95	18.08	--	--	--
2 and 3	180-200	17.12	15.72	17.98	16.91	15.61	18.45	16.72	15.46	17.15
	200-220	17.12	15.72	17.98	16.91	15.64	18.38	17.18	15.78	17.58
	220-240	17.12	15.72	17.98	16.91	15.65	18.18	17.12	15.78	17.32
	240-270	16.82	15.40	17.18	16.58	15.22	17.58	16.80	15.42	16.70
	270-300	16.38	15.00	16.12	16.11	14.58	16.85	16.22	14.82	15.60
Sows –										
	300-330#	15.62	14.18	15.22	14.80	13.58	14.85	15.72	14.55	14.80
	360-400	15.02	13.65	13.95	14.42	13.20	14.10	15.20	13.98	13.50
	450-550	13.72	12.60	12.78	13.68	12.40	12.75	14.05	12.60	12.00
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Classification		S. St. Paul			Baltimore			N. Portland		
Barrows and gilts –										
U.S.No.1	160-180#	17.12	15.98	17.68	17.06	16.00	18.75	18.25	16.72	19.62
2 and 3	180-200	17.32	16.18	17.80	17.59	16.31	19.19	18.88	17.22	20.06
	200-220	17.32	16.18	17.80	17.59	16.31	19.19	18.88	17.22	20.06
	220-240	17.30	16.15	17.48	17.59	15.94	18.72	18.50	16.84	19.88
	240-270	16.98	15.88	16.65	16.97	15.50	17.94	17.50	15.72	18.75
	270-300	16.08	15.18	15.82	15.97	--	16.31	16.88	15.34	18.00
Sows –										
	300-330#	15.58	14.38	15.18	13.59	12.78	13.56	15.50	14.00	15.75
	360-400	14.65	13.38	13.85	13.56	12.56	13.56	14.25	12.88	14.88
	450-550	13.80	12.50	12.30	12.38	11.56	11.50	12.75	11.50	14.00
Pigs (stocker & feeder)–										
Gd. & Ch.	70-120#	15.15	14.20	17.55	--	--	--	15.25	--	--

HOGS: AVERAGE COST, WEIGHT, AND NUMBER OF PACKER AND SHIPPER PURCHASES 1/

	Week ended	Chicago	St. Louis Natl. Stock Yards	Kansas City	Omaha	Sioux City	S. St. Joseph	S. St. Paul	Indianapolis	8 mkts. combined
AVERAGE COST -		Dollars per 100 pounds								
Barrows and gilts	May 19,1956	16.77	16.70	16.58	16.82	16.81	16.65	16.72	16.74	16.73
	May 12,1956	15.29	15.42	15.39	15.36	15.38	15.38	15.58	15.68	15.45
	May 21,1955	17.44	18.06	17.29	17.28	16.89	17.47	16.94	18.13	17.51
Sows	May 19,1956	13.88	14.01	13.66	14.74	14.99	14.55	14.62	12.75	14.11
	May 12,1956	12.87	12.84	12.97	13.40	13.61	13.47	13.42	12.05	13.02
	May 21,1955	13.93	13.55	13.45	13.83	13.46	13.58	13.78	13.43	13.70
AVERAGE WEIGHT -		Pounds								
Barrows and gilts	May 19,1956	230	217	215	224	228	216	224	224	222
	May 12,1956	232	217	219	225	227	216	224	224	223
	May 21,1955	243	217	226	234	233	224	231	228	230
Sows	May 19,1956	422	404	420	376	378	379	368	446	398
	May 12,1956	419	413	412	382	375	385	378	439	401
	May 21,1955	419	410	447	380	375	392	369	451	396
NUMBER OF HEAD -										
Barrows and gilts	May 19,1956	25497	52745	10400	19049	14468	20136	33321	32287	207903
	May 12,1956	27338	58295	12004	27481	18500	23892	37439	34216	239165
	May 21,1955	33977	35740	6574	21064	19217	17545	28802	30832	193751
Sows	May 19,1956	7122	4390	771	5226	3351	1731	7165	4822	34578
	May 12,1956	6525	4010	652	5247	3234	2067	5960	4838	32533
	May 21,1955	6320	2983	461	8055	4643	2088	8077	4296	36923
SOWS		Percentage of total								
	May 19,1956	22	8	7	22	19	8	18	13	14
	May 12,1956	19	6	5	16	15	8	14	12	12
	May 21,1955	16	8	7	28	20	11	22	12	16

1/ Weighted average.

WEEKLY AVERAGE WHOLESALE VALUE OF HOG PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM 100 LB. LIVE HOG, COMPARED WITH PRICES OF LIVE HOGS, CHICAGO

	Hog products 1/	Hog prices 2/	Gross spread or margin 3/
May 19, 1956	$18.51	$17.14	$1.37
May 12, 1956	17.34	15.74	1.60
May 21, 1955	19.82	18.42	1.40

1/ Value of all edible products, fresh basis (lard rendered) in 100 lb. of live hog computed from wholesale prices on carlot basis, Chicago, reported by National Provisioner daily market report.

2/ Mean of daily quotations on U.S.No.1, 2 and 3 hogs 200-220# wt.Chicago.

3/ Difference between wholesale product value and hog prices.

HOG AND CORN PRICES AT CHICAGO AND HOG-CORN PRICE RATIO

Week ended	Barrows and gilts Dollars per 100 pounds	Corn, 1/ No. 3, yellow Cents per bushel	Hog-corn price ratio based on barrows and gilts
May 19, 1956	16.77	150.3	11.2
May 12, 1956	15.29	151.6	10.1
May 21, 1955	17.44	148.6	11.7

1/ Simple average price.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS
In dollars per 100 pounds

		Chicago	Omaha	Kansas City	Fort Worth	Denver	Ogden & North Salt Lake	South San Francisco
LAMBS (SPRING) -								
Choice and Prime	May 19, 1956	26.60	26.38	25.80	--	28.18	24.75	24.75
	May 12, 1956	--	26.75	27.60	--	27.52	25.40	24.69
	May 21, 1955	19.98*	22.75	22.72	--	22.29	21.30	--
Good and Choice	May 19, 1956	25.45	25.40	24.15	21.95	26.30	23.50	23.75
	May 12, 1956	--	24.80	25.90	24.95	25.75	24.15	24.06
	May 21, 1955	18.92*	21.60	21.40	21.35	20.22	20.15	19.00
LAMBS - 105# down (SHORN) -								
Choice and Prime	May 19, 1956	24.00	--	22.50	--	24.50	20.00	--
	May 12, 1956	24.62	23.90	23.85	--	24.30	19.25	--
	May 21, 1955	18.82	--	17.00	--	--	--	--
Good and Choice	May 19, 1956	23.05	21.48	20.50	20.85	23.00	18.00	--
	May 12, 1956	23.88	22.52	21.85	21.30	22.75	17.50	--
	May 21, 1955	17.92	16.90	15.60	15.45	15.52	15.00	--
EWES (SHORN) -								
Good and Choice	May 19, 1956	5.10	5.70	5.12	--	7.12	5.50	--
	May 12, 1956	5.50	5.50	5.38	--	6.62	5.75	4.50
	May 21, 1955	6.00	4.88	5.12	--	6.38	4.25	--
Cull and Utility	May 19, 1956	4.05	4.20	4.12	--	4.25	3.25	--
	May 12, 1956	4.25	4.00	4.12	--	4.00	3.25	3.00
	May 21, 1955	4.75	3.62	3.88	--	4.25	2.75	3.00
FEEDER LAMBS -								
Good and Choice	May 19, 1956	--	--	--	15.70	--	--	--
	May 12, 1956	--	--	--	15.75	--	--	--
	May 21, 1955	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

*Wooled basis.

UNITED STATES FEDERALLY INSPECTED SLAUGHTER BY REGIONS
APRIL 1956 - with comparisons
(thousand head)

Region	Cattle		Calves		Hogs		Sheep & lambs	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
N. Atlantic States.....	126	111	115	106	507	454	199	204
S. Atlantic States.....	42	40	31	27	244	196	--	--
N.C. States - Eastern....	321	296	205	211	1,332	1,123	95	110
N.C. States - N. Western.	438	400	96	92	1,912	1,649	287	323
N.C. States - S. Western.	144	143	28	32	489	413	93	123
S. Central States.....	165	185	84	83	438	339	135	153
Mountain States.....	104	93	7	6	89	84	138	82
Pacific States.....	205	183	38	38	239	214	182	185
Total.....	1,545	1,452	604	596	5,252	4,472	1,129	1,180

Other animals slaughtered under Federal inspection, (number of head): Apr. 1956, horses 14,442; goats 5,515; Apr. 1955, horses 17,826; goats 5,790.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

NEW YORK WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Western Dressed Fresh Meats

Normal supplies of Western dressed steer beef and veal moved slowly, but a moderate supply of fresh pork was readily absorbed. Moderate unloads of lamb, predominantly spring carcasses, were more than sufficient for the demand which narrowed progressively throughout the week and which was extremely narrow at the close. Demand for other fresh meats was slow to fair. However, volume accounts were less active than anticipated. The general trade lacked stability and both packers and wholesalers encountered price resistance on all classes. Compared with a week ago: Steer beef weak to 50¢ lower; cow beef unchanged; veal and calf mostly steady to $1.00 lower, spots off $2.00; Choice and Prime spring lamb $1.00 or more lower, Good $4.00-6.00 off; old crop lamb steady to $3.00 higher except Good $1.00-2.00 lower; pork loins $3.00 higher; other fresh pork cuts steady to $2.00 higher.

A normal steer supply consisted mainly of Choice carcasses, with a small increase in Prime offerings. Sellers failed in numerous attempts to advance prices, and sales during the current week averaged mainly toward the low end of quotations. Rounds were the only primal cut that sold on a fully steady to strong basis. A moderate supply of cow beef found fairly dependable outlet at steady prices. Veal and calf trade carried a weak undertone from the outset, and prices were lower in spots. Boners and processors, however, competed actively for material suitable for such purposes. Toward the week's close, buyer interest on lamb lagged while at the same time sellers were confronted with increased inshipments. Scarcely enough sales were made late to establish a basis for comparison, with closing undertone extremely weak. A moderate supply of Western dressed fresh pork moved readily into retail channels. Most outlets participated, with higher prices posted on loins, spareribs and Boston butts.

Locally Dressed Fresh Meats

Trading was interrupted by two non-slaughtering kosher holidays. However, demand was generally fair for non-kosher beef and veal while the movement of a fully normal fresh pork supply was satisfactory. Cessation of kosher slaughtering operations resulted in absence of many retailers from the trade. Demand for kosher meats previous to the non-slaughtering holidays was narrower than expected during such a period. The week was highlighted by a pronounced indifference on the part of buyers toward lamb. Clearance was disappointingly slow on this class as purchases were confined mainly to minimum needs.

Prices on practically all primal steer cuts were little changed for the week. The trend, however, on rounds, was fully steady to strong, while loin cuts showed weakness. Carcasses scaling 850# down were mainly represented and hindquarters held steady. Prices of kosher beef closed weak.

Practically all grades and weights of veal and calf sold slowly. Prices followed a generally weak pattern and a $2.00 decline was recorded at the low end of Commercial calf quotations. The total lamb supply, although sharply curtailed, was generally in excess of current inquiry. Kosher spring lamb foresaddles sold steady for the most part, although some concessions were made to effect clearance preceding the holiday. The late trade was pretty much of a peddling affair on both hindsaddles and carcasses.

Virtually all local retail outlets operated freely on fresh pork. Sellers encountered little difficulty in disposing of a fully normal supply of loins at slightly higher prices. Other fresh cuts, notably fresh skinned hams, Boston butts, and spareribs sold fully steady.

CHICAGO WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Supplies of all fresh meats proved adequate for demand in a generally slow trade. Bulk of the beef graded Choice with some increase in Prime the past two weeks. Volume of spring and old crop lamb was well below normal with old crop lamb predominating. Weights 80-150# made up bulk of the veal supply. Fresh pork offerings were only moderate. Beef ribs and rounds, center cuts of lamb, and veal carcasses under 80# moved fairly readily and were the only exceptions to the dull local trade. In beef cuts, squarecut chucks were under most downward pressure. Lamb legs were slowest of lamb cuts. Pork trading locally in distributive channels was mostly slow. Prices worked steadily higher until late Wednesday, however, because of rather broad shipping outlets. The week's top quotation of $48.00 on 8-12# pork loins was highest since last September 19. On the closing session, prices of carlots of pork loins were lower, this being first decline in two weeks. At the week's opening, veal carcasses under 80# advanced slightly, while Good to Prime lots over 80# declined later. Lamb and fresh pork clearances at wholesale levels will be complete, while some carryover of veal, and beef cuts is anticipated. Compared to last Thursday's close: Prime beef $1.00-1.50 lower, other grades steady veal unevenly $1.00 higher to $2.00 lower; Choice and Prime lamb steady to weak, Good $1.00-2.00 lower; pork loins 8-16# $3.00-4.00 higher; Boston butts 4-8# $2.00-3.00 higher; spareribs 3# down steady to 50¢ higher. Choice and Prime square cut beef chucks cleared at $25.00-27.00, comparable rounds $41.00-43.00; Prime loins $80.00-85.00, Choice $60.00-64.00; Prime ribs $54.00-56.00, Choice $41.00-44.00; Choice and Prime kosher style chucks $27.00-29.00. Lamb hindsaddles cashed at $60.00-65.00; legs $51.00-56.00; loins $75.00-80.00, hotel ribs $65.00-70.00.

PACIFIC COAST WHOLESALE MEAT TRADE REVIEW

Unseasonally warm weather and stronger asking prices tended to retard demand at all points on the West Coast. Beef carcasses under 600# were in limited but adequate supply while heavier carcasses were liberal to excessive. Veal and calf supplies increased but were still limited while volume of spring lamb carcasses was moderate to small. Fresh pork cuts were adequate to excessive even with curtailed production while smoked pork was liberal to excessive on bacon. Trading was fair on most beef with best demand for carcasses under 600# and for boning cow. Action on veal and calf was slower than the previous week while trade on fresh and cured pork was slow due to higher asking prices. Compared with last Friday: Beef mostly steady, instances Good steer $1.00 lower at Los Angeles and Canner and Cutter cow $1.00 higher in the Northwest; veal and calf steady in California and weak to $2.00 lower in the Northwest; lamb mostly steady, some sales $1.00 higher at Los Angeles; pork loins $2.00-4.00 higher; other pork mostly steady in California and strong to $4.00 higher in the Northwest; smoked skinned hams $2.00-4.00 higher; other smoked meats mostly steady except bacon strong to $2.00 higher in the Northwest; lard steady to 50¢ lower at Los Angeles, $2.00 higher at San Francisco and strong in the Northwest.

Choice steer carcasses under 600# sold mostly at $32.00-35.00, few $36.00; 700-800# $31.00-33.00; Good 500-700# $30.00-34.00; Commercial cow beef $24.50-28.00; Utility $24.00-28.00; Canner and Cutter $20.00-25.00. Good and Choice veal under 150# brought $34.00-42.00 in California and $39.00-47.00 in the Northwest; Commercial $31.00-36.00 in California; Good and Choice calf to 300# $32.00-40.00; Commercial $29.00-34.00. Choice and Prime spring lamb under 55# cashed from $48.00-51.00; Good, all weights, $45.00-50.00, the higher price in the Northwest. Closely trimmed pork loins bulked from $45.00-54.00; shoulders $25.00-32.00; Boston butts $32.00-38.00; smoked skinned hams $49.00-58.00; slab bacon $29.00-42.00.

WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES: WEEKLY AVERAGE OF DAILY QUOTATIONS

In dollars per 100 pounds

Classification	New York			Chicago			San Francisco		
	May 19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	May 19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955	May 19 1956	May 12 1956	21 1955
Beef –									
Steer –									
Prime 600–700#	40.25	40.50	--	36.60	37.90	43.25	--	--	--
700–800	39.25	39.50	43.50	36.60	37.90	44.75	--	--	--
Choice 500–600	--	--	--	33.45	34.00	38.10	35.50	35.50	40.50
600–700	35.75	36.00	40.00	33.45	34.00	38.45	34.00	34.00	39.00
Good 350–600	32.25	32.75	34.00	31.60	31.95	35.40	33.00	33.00	38.00
Com'l. " "	28.00	28.00	31.00	29.00	29.00	32.25	30.00	30.00	35.00
Cow, all wts. –									
Commercial	28.00	28.00	29.00	--	--	--	28.50	28.50	30.00
Utility	26.50	26.50	26.50	--	--	--	25.50	25.50	26.50
Veal –									
Prime 80–110#	40.60	41.00	43.50	43.10	42.90	43.50	--	--	--
Choice " "	36.80	38.00	36.70	38.20	38.40	39.10	--	--	--
Good " "	34.10	34.50	33.70	35.20	35.40	37.00	41.00	41.00	39.00
Spring lamb –									
Prime 40–50#	53.70	52.60	43.00	50.00*	48.95*	40.90*	49.00	49.00	41.00
50–60	--	--	--	48.00*	47.00*	37.00*	47.00	47.00	39.00
Choice 40–50	53.70	52.60	40.00	50.00*	48.95*	39.90*	48.00	48.00	39.00
50–60	--	--	--	48.00*	47.00*	36.00*	46.50	46.50	37.00
Good all wts.	49.30	49.70	38.00	45.50*	45.00*	34.50*	46.00	46.00	38.50
Pork – Fresh –									
Loins 8–10# av.	46.10	41.90	50.90	46.45	40.65	50.40	50.20	48.00	55.00
10–12 "	46.10	41.90	50.90	46.45	40.65	50.40	52.20	49.50	53.00
12–16 "	45.60	41.40	48.50	45.50	39.60	47.50	50.60	48.50	52.00
Butts 4–8 "	32.30	32.00	34.30	30.00	28.05	32.60	36.00	36.00	39.50
Pork – Cured –									
Hams, smk., skd. –									
12–16# av.	48.00	48.50	52.00	52.35	51.85	51.45	56.00	54.00	57.00
16–18 "	46.00	46.00	49.70	51.35	50.25	49.30	54.00	52.00	54.00
18–20 "	--	--	--	50.35	50.05	47.30	--	--	--
Bacon, smk.. slab –									
6–8# av.	--	--	--	33.80	33.50	43.50	40.00	40.00	51.00
8–10 "	30.00	32.00	43.50	32.80	32.00	41.30	38.00	38.00	48.00
Sliced 1 # pkg.	39.00	38.50	45.50	39.15	38.75	51.10	42.00	42.00	51.00
Picnics, smoked –									
4–8# av.	27.00	25.50	34.00	31.80	30.85	34.60	30.00	30.00	36.80
Backs, D. S. –									
16–20# av.	15.00	14.00	14.50	12.75	12.45	11.50	--	--	--
Lard, 1# cartons –									
Refined	17.25	17.00	16.00	16.25	16.55	15.45	19.00	18.25	18.50
Substitutes	--	--	--	--	--	27.00	--	--	--

Note: Quotations at New York exclude locally dressed meats.

* Old-crop lamb.

BOSTON WOOL MARKET REVIEW

The price trend in the Boston market turned slightly stronger as approximately twenty-eight cars of various greasy domestic combing wools were sold. There was a continued good demand for medium grade fleece wools from mill buyers. Scoured wools and noils were slow at about unchanged rates from a week ago. Topmakers were active in the territory States with some buying for the dealer trade. About 50 percent of the new clip had been sold in the northern territory States while practically all wool was sold in the southern territory areas. Turnover in Texas was slow while activity in the fleece wool States was quiet. Prices at all Dominion markets were firm to very strong. Japan dominated in Australia with the Continent and Bradford operating moderately. Good general competition featured trading in New Zealand and South Africa. The South American markets remained quiet.

Fleece Wools - Graded fine Ohio delaine sold at $1.31 clean basis while graded 60/62s and 60s good French combing and staple fleeces brought $1.12-1.14. A lot of average French combing 60/62s moved at a clean price from $1.02-1.04. Graded 56/58s good French combing and staple wool from 53¢-55¢ in the grease sold at $1.04-1.05 clean and 50/54s staple fleeces around 52½¢-55¢ brought from 98¢-$1.02 clean basis. A graded low 1/4 blood 46/48s staple fleece wool moved at 93¢ clean. Graded 56/58s average French combing Ohio fleeces sold at $1.00 while Valley Oregon wool of the same class brought $1.01. Country buyers were paying from 42¢-44¢ but mostly 43¢ grease basis to the growers.

Territory Wools - Graded 60/62s good French combing and staple territory wool sold at $1.20 clean basis while 56/58s moved at $1.08. Mixed or grading wools in Montana were purchased at grease prices ranging from 43¢-47½¢, Colorado wools around 46¢ and California wools from 45¢-55¢ to the growers.

Texas Wools - Original bag 12 months Texas wool, mostly good French combing with some average length sold at $1.27 clean basis. Some 8 months wool continued to sell in Texas at recent levels while growers were holding 12 months wool at strong prices.

Mohair - There was very little interest in mohair in the local market. A few cars of adult mohair sold in Texas at 87¢ and 87½¢ to the warehouse with a small quantity of kid selling at 97½¢.

Sales of CCC Wools - The Commodity Credit Corporation announced on May 17 that approximately 2,244,000 pounds of C.C.C.-owned wools were sold from bids received on a total of about 5,814,000 pounds. The principal grades, quantities and sales price ranges (before discounts, if any) follow:

	Pounds	Price Range
Graded territory fine staple and good French	17,151	$1.30
" " 1/2 blood average and good French	10,715	1.103
" " 1/2 blood sh. French and clothing	26,769	1.003
" " 3/8s " average French	730,362X	$.90 -1.00
" " low 1/4 blood	59,234X	.86 - .92
O. B. Texas 12 months, sh. French and clothing	40,325X	.905-1.13
" " " fall, best length	595,459X	.85 -1.082
Graded fleece 1/4 blood staple and good French 50/54s	220,056	.983-1.034
" " 1/4 blood " " " " 48/50s	30,519	.96 - .971

(X - No more of this class now left in the inventory.)

Wool Tops - Wool tops moved slower than a week ago as prices turned higher. Quotes follow: Warp Australian dry-combed 70s at $1.95; 64s at $1.85; 60s at $1.74 and oil-combed 58/60s at $1.64.

INSPECTED STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS FROM PUBLIC STOCKYARDS

April 1956 - with comparisons

Cattle and Calves

Market origin	Apr. 1956	Apr. 1955	State destination	Apr. 1956	Apr. 1955
	Number	Number		Number	Number
Baltimore	1,954	2,061	Pennsylvania	9,458	6,696
Chicago	5,241	6,528	Ohio	7,152	7,033
Cincinnati	440	407	Indiana	11,157	9,623
Clovis	8,017	12,318	Illinois	22,868	27,798
Denver	18,707	20,931	Michigan	5,631	4,094
Detroit	2,011	1,295	Wisconsin	709	1,157
Fort Worth	13,712	11,095	Minnesota	7,326	9,175
Indianapolis	3,987	4,458	Iowa	33,154	51,126
Kansas City	35,474	46,146	Missouri	15,959	25,584
Lancaster	7,043	5,182	South Dakota	4,588	6,871
Los Angeles	4,450	7,182	Nebraska	22,357	29,767
Louisville	3,044	2,940	Kansas	19,985	23,965
Nashville	1,288	1,768			
Ogden	9,326	6,627	Maryland	1,647	1,615
Oklahoma City	20,392	16,978	Virginia	1,565	1,142
Omaha	21,099	29,157	Kentucky	3,638	2,548
St. Louis area 1/	7,698	7,211	Tennessee	2,886	3,420
San Antonio	29,503	33,583			
Sioux City	18,558	23,042	Oklahoma	12,082	12,129
Sioux Falls	7,340	8,761	Texas	31,701	26,126
S. St. Joseph	6,232	12,606	Colorado	14,909	15,356
S. St. Paul	6,109	8,513	Utah	5,081	3,973
Wichita	8,805	10,977	California	19,722	23,149
All other inspected 2/	53,223	56,599	All other 2/	40,078	44,018
Total 2/	293,653	336,365	Total 2/	293,653	336,365

Sheep and Lambs

Chicago	459	834	Ohio	1,365	4,308
Denver	1,367	15,412	Indiana	440	938
Fort Worth	14,004	17,012	Illinois	4,097	8,119
Kansas City	2,254	5,741	Michigan	277	466
Louisville	55	--	Wisconsin	340	348
Ogden	28,735	29,421	Minnesota	2,529	5,211
Omaha	1,559	2,932	Iowa	21,040	33,246
St. Louis area 1/	1,519	1,961	Missouri	16,467	12,978
Salt Lake City	7,467	21,898	South Dakota	6,198	3,508
Sioux City	1,319	4,442	Nebraska	5,920	20,447
Sioux Falls	1,049	589	Kansas	13,171	3,108
S. St. Joseph	13,544	9,392	Kentucky	2,106	2,534
S. St. Paul	2,282	3,746	Texas	8,448	10,304
			Colorado	2,830	5,603
			Utah	3	3,415
All other			California	819	528
inspected 2/	29,791	35,226	All other 2/	19,354	33,545
Total 2/	105,404	148,606	Total 2/	105,404	148,606

1/ Includes St. Louis National Stockyards, Ill., and St. Louis, Mo.

2/ Excludes Hawaii.

Compiled by the Agricultural Estimates Division, Agricultural Marketing Service from Inspection Records of Animal Quarantine Branch, Agricultural Research Service.

MEATS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED
UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION

Product	Week ended Apr. 7 1956	Apr. 14 1956	Apr. 21 1956	Apr. 28 1956
	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Placed in cure -				
Beef	2,662	3,106	3,308	3,167
Pork	62,276	59,705	63,920	69,135
Other	23	40	16	23
Smoked and/or dried -				
Beef	980	1,285	1,060	1,044
Pork	44,214	42,316	44,198	46,779
Cooked meat -				
Beef	1,433	1,365	1,429	1,491
Pork	4,837	4,101	5,018	5,235
Other	68	71	94	100
Sausage -				
Fresh finished	4,502	4,422	4,649	4,546
To be dried or semi-dried	2,515	2,548	2,713	2,900
Franks, wieners	12,007	12,669	13,281	12,982
Other, smoked or cooked	10,637	11,931	12,613	12,698
Loaf, head cheese, chili, jellied products	3,663	3,793	4,233	4,066
Steaks, chops, roasts	11,662	12,027	12,597	13,434
Meat extract	7	6	128	29
Sliced bacon	18,958	18,627	18,900	19,728
Sliced, other	3,122	3,570	3,683	3,556
Hamburger	3,082	3,040	3,081	3,040
Miscellaneous meat product	1,258	1,153	1,148	1,453
Lard, rendered	41,244	38,763	41,568	44,459
Lard, refined	33,627	35,010	34,623	35,697
Oleo stock	1,919	1,883	2,181	2,017
Edible tallow	3,648	4,042	4,447	4,283
Rendered pork fat -				
Rendered	2,121	2,065	1,988	2,217
Refined	1,043	847	1,017	1,091
Compound containing animal fat	13,053	13,412	13,277	12,015
Oleomargarine " " "	1,462	1,275	1,364	1,393
Canned products (for civilian use and Dept. of Defense)	53,106	52,724	52,285	56,060
Total 1/	339,130	335,797	348,820	364,637

1/ This figure represents "inspection pounds" as some of the products may have been inspected and recorded more than once due to having been subjected to more than one distinct processing treatment, such as curing first, then canning.

Data furnished by Agricultural Research Service.

MEATS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS PREPARED AND PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - Continued

Product	Week ended - 1956							
	Apr. 7		Apr. 14		Apr. 21		Apr. 28	
	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.	3 lb. or over	Under 3 lb.
Canned product (For civilian use only)	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#	1,000#
Luncheon meat	4,186	3,357	3,950	3,748	4,271	3,306	4,359	3,684
Canned hams	4,746	139	4,816	103	4,479	109	4,315	123
Corned beef hash	92	1,615	12	1,325	37	1,594	69	1,552
Chili con carne	178	1,626	86	1,591	63	1,821	117	1,845
Viennas	15	1,085	16	992	15	1,045	46	1,185
Franks, wieners in brine	—	21	1	15	5	29	—	39
Deviled ham	—	202	—	145	—	583	—	209
Other potted or deviled meat food products	—	886	—	700	8	888	—	836
Tamales	5	463	37	620	6	874	12	871
Sliced dried beef	8	93	14	79	8	79	2	93
Chopped beef	—	395	—	349	—	393	—	430
Meat stew (all products)	8	2,293	44	2,238	1	2,311	18	1,938
Spaghetti meat products	46	1,210	29	1,090	24	994	20	1,152
Tongue (other than pickled)	13	37	11	42	24	24	16	32
Vinegar pickled products	182	375	168	346	156	365	202	341
Bulk sausage	2	106	1	118	—	169	—	112
Hamburger, rstd. or corned beef, meat and gravy	83	4,808	89	4,844	91	3,639	63	2,729
Soups	689	13,734	265	15,405	498	15,429	377	21,094
Sausage in oil	99	67	152	45	81	73	40	71
Tripe	—	140	—	109	—	74	—	73
Brains	—	54	—	20	—	35	—	52
Canned loins and picnics	586	26	487	17	513	18	523	7
All other with meat and/or meat byproducts -								
20% or more	77	2,366	29	1,825	36	1,555	15	1,630
Less than 20%	39	4,086	112	5,133	121	5,563	41	4,995
Total	11,053	39,184	10,319	40,899	10,436	40,972	10,233	45,094

Note: See footnote at bottom of page 425.

LIVESTOCK REVIEW - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 411

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Receipts at the 12 markets totaled about 79,000 compared with 89,000 a week ago, and 106,000 for the same period a year ago. In spite of smaller receipts, slaughter lamb prices were $1.00-2.00 lower at most markets and strong to 50¢ higher at a few points. Much of the week's decline was attributed to a reaction from the relatively high price levels attained as a result of recent sharp advances. Unevenness in the live lamb trade was more or less of a reflection of the week's developments in the wholesale dressed trade where late prices varied from $5.00 or more higher to $4.00 lower at Eastern centers. Receipts consisted mainly of spring lambs with a moderate showing of old crop shorn offerings.

Good and Choice old crop shorn lambs carrying No. 2 to fall shorn pelts brought $19.00-24.25, a few Choice and Prime 93-103# lots with No. 1 and fall shorn pelts reaching $25.50-25.75 at Chicago. Good to Prime spring lambs cleared mainly from $20.00-27.00, Cull to low-Good offerings $12.00-20.00. Cull to Choice shorn slaughter ewes brought $2.50-6.00, bulk $3.00-5.50. Good and Choice shorn feeder lambs cashed from $16.50-17.50, a few wooled feeders $17.00-18.00. Medium and Good 49-58# spring feeders sold from $16.50-17.00, one consignment of Good 50# southwestern spring feeders reaching $20.50. A string of 1250 head of Texas yearling breeding ewes brought $16.85 a head in a special sale at Kansas City.

WESTERN LIVESTOCK REVIEW

Trading at western livestock terminals was featured by a substantial price advance on barrows and gilts, moderate strength on slaughter lambs, and an uneven price trend on slaughter cattle. Slaughter steers closed steady to 50¢ lower, heifers and cows steady to 25¢ higher except for some decline on cows at Spokane. Prices of slaughter calves and vealers were steady at most points, instances $1.00-2.00 lower in the northwest. Stockers and feeders cleared at steady to 25¢ higher prices. Advances on barrows and gilts measured from 50¢-$1.50. Spring lambs showed weakness at North Portland and Ogden but sold steady to 50¢ higher at other markets.

Choice slaughter steers up to 1200# brought $19.00-21.00; Good $17.00-19.00; Commercial $16.00-18.00. Most Choice heifers sold from $18.50-19.50, few loads high-Choice-Prime $20.00-20.25 at North Portland and Denver. Commercial cows ranged from $13.00-14.50, few to $15.10 at Los Angeles, Utility $10.50-13.00, Canners and Cutters $8.50-12.00. Good and Choice vealers cleared from $22.00-26.50 in the northwest and at Ogden, mostly $19.00-23.50 elsewhere, same grades slaughter calves $16.00-22.00. Stocker and feeder steers grading Good and Choice bulked at $17.00-18.00, some $18.60 at Denver, with Choice 525-600# at Ogden $18.25-19.00.

Prices were mostly steady on slaughter steers and heifers in the direct trade out of California feedlots. Good and Choice fed steers sold from $18.00-20.50, few loads Choice $20.75-21.00, some Good grass steers $17.00-17.50. Good and Choice heifers brought $17.00-20.00. Stocker and feeder trade was slow at steady to weak prices. Good and Choice steers up to 1050# brought $16.50-17.50, 250 head 780# $18.00. Fed cattle f.o.b. feedlot mainly at 4% shrink, others f.o.b. ranch 1-3% shrink.

U. S. No. 1 to 3 180-240# barrows and gilts brought $18.00-19.75 at North Portland; $18.00-18.50 Stockton; $17.00-18.75 Los Angeles; $18.25 S. San Francisco; $16.75-18.25 Spokane; $16.75-17.75 Denver; $16.00-17.75 Ogden. Choice and Prime native spring lambs up to 106# brought $28.00-28.50 at Denver, Good and Choice $25.00-27.50. In the Far West Choice and Prime new crop lambs earned $24.00-25.00, Good and Choice $22.50-25.00. Direct trade on California spring lambs was about finished but one band of mostly Choice offerings sold late the previous week at $25.00 with the feeder end $20.00 for delivery up to June 20. Good and Choice spring feeder lambs sold mostly from $21.00-22.00.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF MEATS

Commodity	Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955
	Pounds	Pounds
EXPORTS (Domestic) -		
Beef and veal -		
Fresh or frozen	7,968,210	4,977,625
Pickled or cured	772,100	1,227,280
Pork -		
Hams & shoulders, cured or cooked and bacon	1,617,735	1,509,914
Other pork, fresh, frozen, pickled, salted or otherwise cured	5,452,797	4,648,568
Other meats, except canned (Incl. edible animal organs)	8,122,810	3,783,420
Canned meats -		
Beef and veal	612,980	238,286
Sausage, prepared sausage meats, bologna and frankfurters	420,198	421,714
Pork	582,033	317,834
Lard, includes rend. pork fat and shortenings (chief wt. animal fat)	48,326,770	47,253,312
Tallow, edible	3,057,728	793,916
Tallow, inedible	114,095,911	92,707,581
Inedible animal oils, greases and fats, n.e.c	9,193,270	10,037,847
IMPORTS -		
Beef, fresh or frozen	1,947,075	1,528,270
Veal, fresh or frozen	1,458	--
Beef and veal, pickled or cured	193,494	311,799
Canned beef (includes corned beef)	5,026,667	3,885,260
Pork, fresh or chilled or frozen	3,246,974	2,671,549
Hams, shoulders, bacon & other pork 1/	381,585	535,227
Canned cooked hams & shoulders	6,902,846	7,412,910
Other pork, prepared or preserved 2/	1,009,886	953,275
Meats, fresh, chilled, frozen, n.e.s	36,700	112,889
Meats, canned, prep. or pres, n.e.s.	454,944	788,323
Lamb, mutton and goat meat	546,594	19,475
Tallow, inedible	294,860	296,360
Animal fats and greases, n.e.s	70,484	116,300

1/ Not cooked, boned or canned or made into sausage.
2/ Includes fresh pork sausage.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF LIVESTOCK

		Feb. 1956	Feb. 1955
		Number	Number
EXPORTS (domestic) -			
Cattle for breeding		3,151	1,277
Other cattle		2,540	318
IMPORTS -			
Cattle for breeding, free -			
Canada 1/ -			
Bulls		49	43
Cows		1,487	1,021
Other Countries -			
Bulls		--	3
Cows		--	--
Cattle, other edible (dut.) -			
Canada -			
Over 700 Pounds	Dairy	2,136	1,704
	Other	76	700
200-700 pounds		7	643
Under 200 pounds		6	--
Mexico -			
Over 700 pounds	Dairy	--	301
	Other	706	13,803
200-700 pounds		9,240	50,409
Hogs -			
Edible, except for breeding (dut.) 2/		38	484
Horses -			
For breeding, free		48	66
Other (dut.)		114	55
Sheep, lambs and goats, edible (dut.)		--	119

1/ Includes Newfoundland and Labrador.
2/ Number of hogs based on estimate of 200 pounds per animal.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

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THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION
Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 1, 1956
SUMMARY

Market supplies of both hogs and heavy fed cattle, large throughout the fall and winter, have turned downward. The reduction is partly seasonal. However, with fewer cattle reported on feed April 1 and fewer sows farrowing spring pigs, the overall level of livestock marketings will be lower than in past months. This is a significant let-up from past expansion. It is not a major reversal of trend. Hog production will remain less than in the past year but cattle production will continue large, as cow numbers are being fully maintained.

The number of cattle on feed in 14 States on April 1 was 8 percent less than in April 1955. The number of heavier cattle was about unchanged, promising a supply for slaughter in the near future about equal to a year ago. Most of the reduction was in cattle of the lighter weights, and unless a great many young stock are put on feed soon the supply of fed cattle for slaughter in late summer and early fall could be considerably below the large supplies of last year. Prices of fed cattle have strengthened recently and may continue gradually upward, regaining last year's level sometime in late summer or fall. Prices of grass cattle, however, will continue to be influenced by unsatisfactory feeding profits this past winter and may be slower to reach the prices of last year.

According to indications from hog producers in 9 States, spring farrowings for the United States probably are being reduced by somewhat more than the 2 percent planned earlier. In the same 9 States producers intend to reduce summer farrowings (the first half of the fall pig crop) 8 percent. From all evidence, a smaller fall pig crop seems likely this year than last.

Slaughter of hogs will remain above last year until mid-summer. Sometime after that it will drop to around last year's level, and then fall below last year. Prices are expected gradually to close the gap with last year's prices. They will probably average at least as high this fall as last, and not drop as low as late last year.

Production of meat in commercial establishments in January-March was up 11 percent from last year. By October-December it may be around 2 percent below the same months of 1955. The 1956 total output is forcast at 3 percent above 1955, and consumption per person at 162½ pounds compared with 161 pounds last year.